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STORIES of STRANGE ADVENTURE

NO 53 - APRIL

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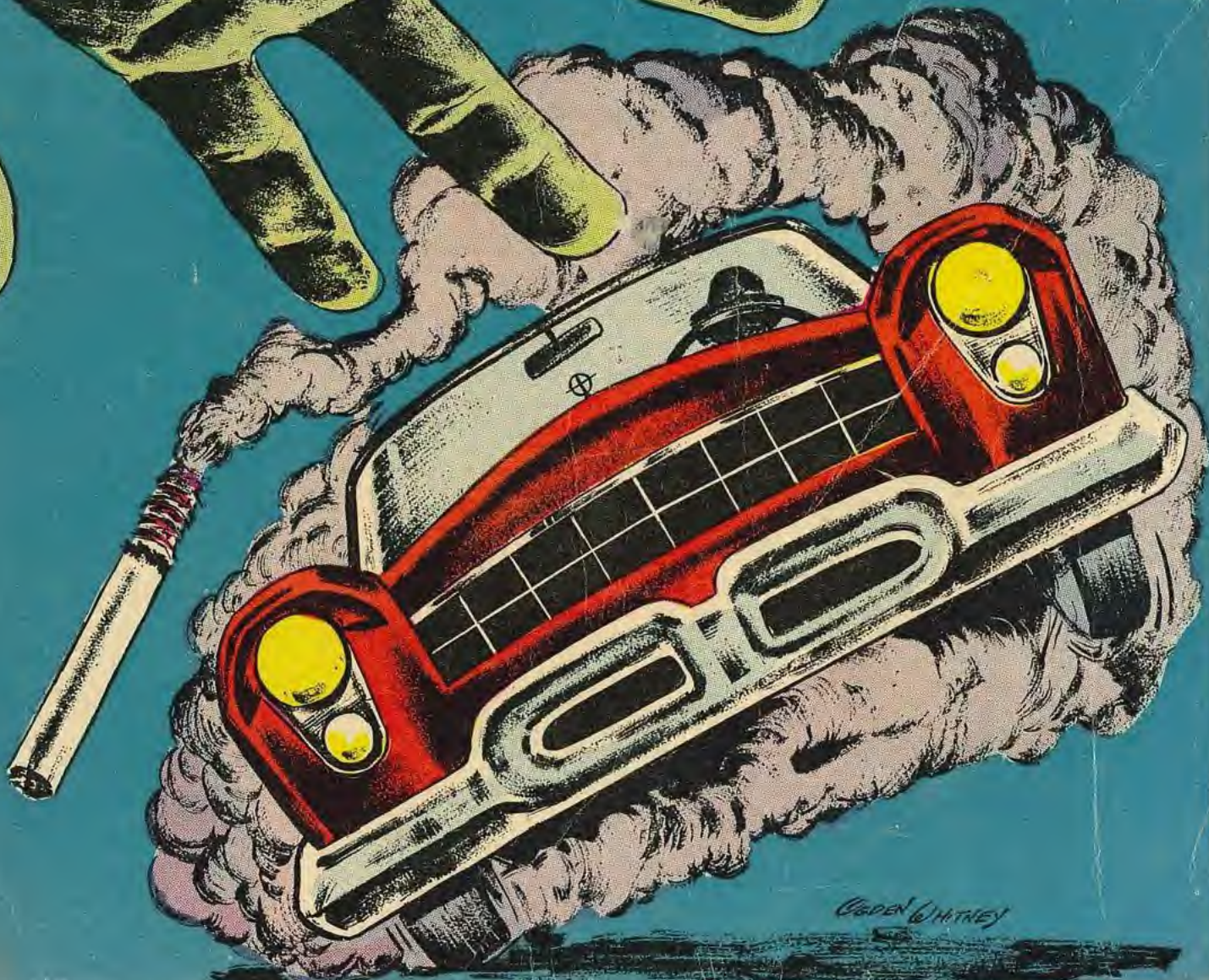
AUTHORITY

FORBIDDEN WORLDS

10¢

Strange, MYSTERIOUS
CIGARETTES... THAT
CONTAINED A MAGIC
MENACE! READ THIS
ASTOUNDING STORY...

**"SMOKE
RINGS!"**



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MARSHAL DAWSON'S RETURN!

SNAP OUT OF IT, BOY!
NO KIN OF MINE CAN BE
A COWARD!



IT WASN'T SURPRISING
THAT YOUNG JIM DAWSON
WAS ONE OF THE MOST
DARING TEST PILOTS IN THE
AIR CORPS! AFTER ALL, HADN'T
HIS GREAT-GRANDFATHER BEEN
AMONG THE BRAVEST OF WESTERN
MARSHALS, A MAN WHO'D CLEANED
UP MANY A TOWN WITH HIS
LIGHTNING DRAW? BUT STRANGE
THINGS CAN HAPPEN WHEN A
STRONG MAN LOSES HIS
COURAGE...WHEN SHATTERED
NERVES TAKE COMMAND...

TO JIM, TESTING A NEW-TYPE FIGHTER WAS ALL IN A
DAY'S WORK...

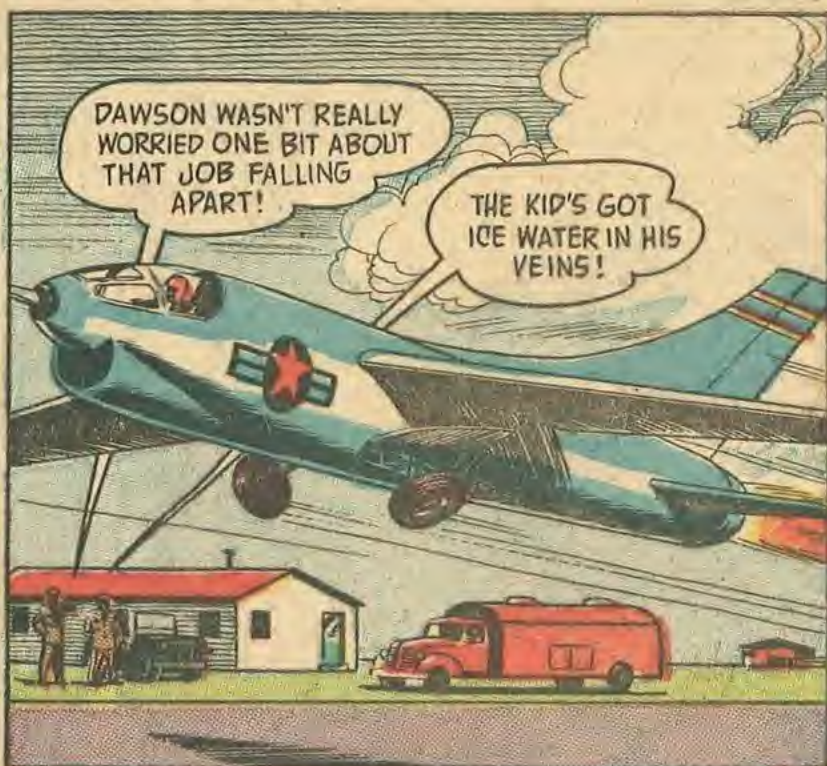
THROTTLE HER WIDE OPEN, THEN
POWER DIVE TO 700 PER! THINK
YOU CAN TAKE IT?

I CAN! BUT
CAN THE
PLANE?



DAWSON WASN'T REALLY
WORRIED ONE BIT ABOUT
THAT JOB FALLING
APART!

THE KID'S GOT
ICE WATER IN HIS
VEINS!

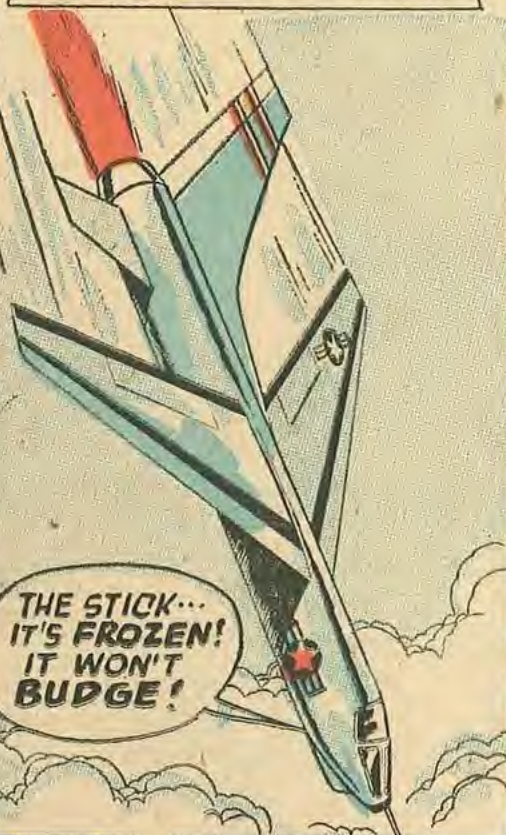


"ICE WATER IN HIS VEINS!"
EVERYONE SAID THAT, AND IT WAS TRUE...

UP TO 500...AND SHE'S NOT EVEN VIBRATING! THIS IS GOING TO BE A **CINCH!**



500--600--700...THE TEST PROCEEDED ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE! BUT NOW, JUST WHEN HE HAD TO PULL OUT...



THE STICK... IT'S FROZEN! IT WON'T BUDGE!

800--900...AND THE EARTH AND ETERNITY WERE STARING HIM STRAIGHT IN THE FACE! NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE FELT THE CLAMMY HAND OF FEAR...

NO...NO! IT CAN'T END THIS WAY...I WANT TO LIVE!



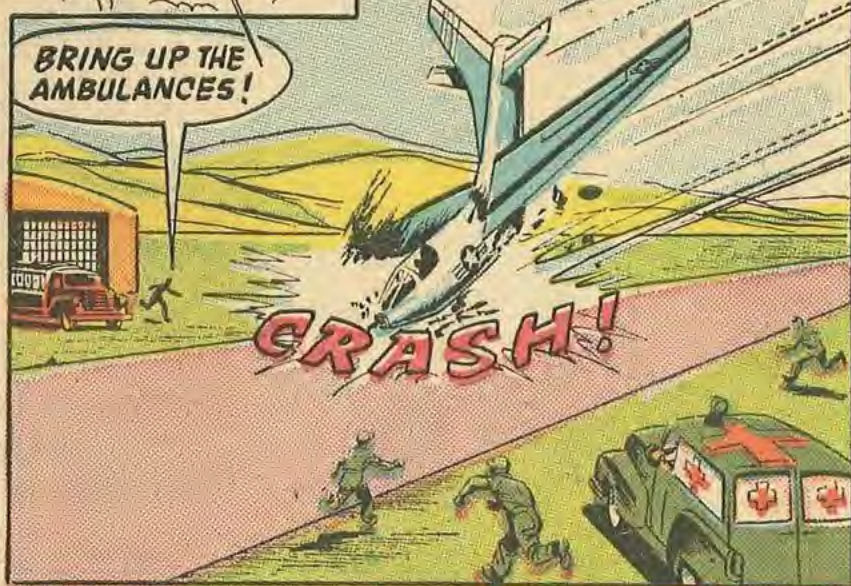
AT THAT INSTANT, THE STICK SUDDENLY GAVE! STRAINING UNDER IMMENSE PRESSURE, THE PLANE SLOWLY LEVELED, BUT...

THE WING IS BUCKLING! MY... MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO BRING HER IN FOR A CRASH LANDING!



CR-RAK!

BRING UP THE AMBULANCES!



CRASH!

HE WAS SEMI-CONSCIOUS WHEN STRONG HANDS PULLED HIM FROM THE COCKPIT... WITH ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE...

I...I MIGHT HAVE BEEN IN THERE! I'D HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO...

TAKE IT EASY, JIM...YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!



BOOM!

EXCEPT FOR SEVERE BRUISES AND A SPLITTING HEADACHE, THERE WAS NOTHING PHYSICALLY WRONG WITH HIM...

NEVER HAD SUCH A BAD HEADACHE BEFORE, EH? HMMM, CAN'T TELL HOW PULLING OUT OF SUCH A POWER DIVE MIGHT HAVE SHAKEN UP THE BRAIN!

WE'LL KEEP YOU UNDER OBSERVATION FOR A FEW DAYS!



BY NIGHTFALL HE HAD BEGUN TO SEE DOUBLE, WHILE BRILLIANT COLORS FLASHED BEFORE HIS EYES...

NO MATTER HOW BAD **THIS** IS---I---I'M LUCKY TO BE ALIVE! I DON'T EVER WANT TO GO **NEAR** A PLANE AGAIN!



IMPROVED BY THE NEXT DAY, HE WAS PERMITTED TO HAVE VISITORS...

TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T GO BACK UP IN A PLANE IMMEDIATELY! SOME GUYS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO LOSE THEIR **NERVE** AFTER AN ACCIDENT LIKE THAT!

HA-HA! IMAGINE A HOT ROCK LIKE **JIM** GETTING SCARED!



TO HIS BUDDIES IT WAS ALL A JOKE, AND EVEN HIS SUPERIORS THOUGHT HE'D BE BACK ON FULL DUTY WITHIN A FEW DAYS...

I--- I CAN'T DO IT, COLONEL! I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU **NOW**---I'M **THROUGH** WITH FLYING!

NONSENSE! I CAN'T IMAGINE A GREAT-GRANDSON OF **MARSHAL DAWSON** LOSING HIS NERVE! YOU'RE JUST JITTERY, THAT'S ALL!



IT WAS HARD TO FACE---THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE WAS A **COWARD**! HE TOSSED AND TURNED FOR HOURS...

NOBODY CAN BELIEVE IT'S HAPPENED TO ME---JUST BECAUSE I'M RELATED TO THE **MARSHAL**! WHY CAN'T I GET HIM OUT OF MY **MIND**?



AS IF MOCKING HIS THOUGHTS, A FACE SEEMED TO LOOM UP BEFORE HIS EYES...

YUH NEED ALL THE NERVE YUH GOT NOW, BOY!

NO---NO! I'M SEEING THINGS!



IN ANSWER TO HIS TERRIFIED SHOUT...

HE---HE'S **DISAPPEARED!** M-MY---**GREAT-GRANDFATHER**...

EASY THERE, CAPTAIN! I THINK YOU NEED A **SEDATIVE!**



DISCHARGED AT LAST FROM THE HOSPITAL, HIS HEADACHES PERSISTED, AND HE PUT IN FOR A LONG FURLOUGH...

GOOD IDEA! NOTHING LIKE PEACE AND QUIET FOR A CASE OF **JITTERS**! THAT RANCH OF YOURS WILL BE JUST PERFECT!

NOTHING CAN HELP ME NOW! WHY SHOULD I RISK MY LIFE AGAIN?



SURROUNDED BY THE FAMILIAR SCENES OF HOME, IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT MAN WAS NEVER **MEANT** TO FLY--



WELCOME HOME, BOY! YOU ALL RIGHT?

GOOD AS I'LL EVER BE, GRANDPA! NOT A SCRATCH ON ME ANYMORE!

HE TRIED TO HIDE HIS NERVOUSNESS IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, BUT THE OLD MAN'S EYES WERE SHARP! HE DRAGGED THE WHOLE STORY OUT OF HIM--



SO THAT'S IT! I'M GOING TO RESIGN MY COMMISSION!

WHA-A-AT?

YUH TELLIN' ME THAR'S A **YALLERBACK** IN THE DAWSON FAMILY?



YUH'RE SHAMIN' MY PAPPY, THE OL' MARSHAL! THAT DUDE ARTIST SHORE PAINTED HIM PROPER--RIGHT DOWN TUH THAT FUNNY SCAR RUNNIN' THROUGH HIS HAIR! YUH KNOW HOW HE **GOT** IT, DON'T YUH?

THE MARSHAL'S MOST FAMOUS FIGHT--HOW MANY TIMES HAD HE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE? BUT THERE WAS NO STOPPING THE OLD MAN NOW--

LEMME SEE, IT WAS BACK IN '78! IT WARNT EASY BRINGIN' LAW AN' ORDER TUH A TOWN LIKE **CARVILLE**, BUT THAR WAS **ONE MAN** COULD DO IT!



I KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY--**WORD FOR WORD!**

"IT STARTED LIKE ANY OTHER DAY," JIM'S GRANDFATHER BEGAN. "THE USUAL THINGS, TAMIN' TWO UGLIES ACTIN' UP--"

WILL YUH COME QUIET TO THE LOCKUP **NOW?**



"AN' THEN THAR WAS A GAMBLER THOUGHT HE COULD OUTDRAW THE MARSHAL AN' HAVE A WIDE-OPEN TOWN--"

NEXT TIME YUH TRY DRAWIN', I'LL PLAY FOR **KEEPS!**

"IT WAS 'LONG ABOUT SUNDOWN THAT THE NEWS CAME ON THE STAGECOACH--"

THE **TYSON BOYS** HAVE BUSTED OUT OF JAIL! AN' THEY'RE HEADED HERE TUH GET THE MAN WHO SENT 'EM THAR!

RECKON THAT'S **ME!**



"YUH THINK THE MARSHAL WAS SCARED? HE NEVER BATTED AN EYELASH... JUST WENT ABOUT TESTIN' HIS GUN ON A FEW COINS..."



THEY'LL BE HERE BY NIGHTFALL! YUH CAN STILL RUN FOR IT... NOBODY'LL BLAME YUH!



"THAR WASN'T A CALMER MAN IN TOWN AS THE HOURS PASSED..."



"YUH NEVER SAW THREE MEANER HOMBRES THAN THE TYSONS..."



"YUP, THEY'D NICKED THE MARSHAL, KNOCKED HIM OUT FOR A SECOND... BUT WHEN HE CAME TO..."



HE WORE THAT SCAR LIKE A MEDAL AFTERWARDS! SO DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT A YALLER STREAK IN YUH, BOY... WE JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND BEIN' SCARED IN HIS FAMILY!



SLEEP WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR JIM THAT NIGHT...THE WORDS OF THE STORY SEEMED TO SEAR THROUGH HIS WHOLE BEING...

I...I'M A **COWARD**! IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE **COUNTRY** THAT I TEST PLANES...BUT I'M NOT **MAN** ENOUGH TO DO MY DUTY...



RESTLESS, HE WENT DOWNSTAIRS...STARED AT THE PORTRAIT...

I'M NOT FIT TO SHINE HIS SHOES! HERE'S HIS GUN...THE VERY WEAPON HE FOUGHT SO BRAVELY WITH...



HE TOOK THE SIXGUN FROM THE WALL! ABSENTLY HE TWIRLED IT, WESTERN-STYLE...

SURE FEELS DIFFERENT FROM A MODERN GUN!...**OOPS**...



THE WEAPON SLIPPED FROM HIS GRASP, FELL TO THE FLOOR! THERE WAS A LOUD REPORT, A SHARP IMPACT AGAINST HIS SKULL...

OH-HH!



THEN EVERYTHING WENT DARK! HE FELT HIMSELF SPINNING...**SPINNING**...ENVELOPED BY FOG...



SLOWLY THE BLACK MISTS LIFTED! HE PERCEIVED SHAPES...HEARD THE TINKLE OF AN OLD PIANO! THEN EVERYTHING SUDDENLY SWAM INTO FOCUS...

THE **TYSON BOYS** HAVE BUSTED OUT OF JAIL! AN' THEY'RE HEADED HERE TUH GET THE MAN THAT SENT 'EM THAR!

HOW...HOW DID I GET HERE...?



STRANGELY, IT WAS **JIM DAWSON** WHO WORE THE MARSHAL'S BADGE NOW! HE WAS THE LAW IN THE TOWN OF CARVILLE...

THEY'LL BE HERE BY NIGHTFALL! WHAT ARE YUH GOIN' TUH DO?

I'LL BE HERE...**WAITIN'**!



IT WAS LIKE A DRAMA UNFOLDING ON SOME REMOTE STAGE
...AND YET HE KNEW THAT HE WAS PART OF IT... **REALLY** PART
OF IT...

RECKON I'LL CATCH
40 WINKS! BE SEEIN' YUH,
BOYS!

YUH MUST HAVE ICE WATER
IN YORE VEINS! HOW CAN
YUH SLEEP AT A TIME LIKE
THIS?



**JIM AND THE OLD MARSHAL—THEY WERE ONE AND THE SAME
NOW! AND ODDLY, HE FELT HIS STOMACH TURN OVER WITH A FEAR
HE DARED NOT SHOW BEFORE THE TOWNFOLK...**

I...I GOT TUH GET A GRIP ON
MUHSELF! IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
BEFORE A GUNFIGHT...KNOWIN'
I'M FACE TUH FACE WITH
ETERNITY!



BEADS OF COLD SWEAT STOOD ON HIS
FOREHEAD...HE FELT HIS NERVES
GETTING THE BEST OF HIM! HIS MAIN
IMPULSE WAS TO RUN, TO FLEE THE
DANGER...

BUT I CAN'T RUN!

IT'S MUH **JOB** TUH KEEP LAW
AN' ORDER IN THIS TOWN! IF I
LEFT, IT'D
BUST WIDE
OPEN!



FIGHTING DOWN HIS FEAR, HE
WENT TO FULFILL HIS DUTY! HE
WASN'T ASHAMED OF HOW HE
FELT...KNOWING THAT ONLY A
FOOL COULD BE WITHOUT
DREAD AT SUCH A TIME...

**THEY'RE
HERE!**

GET OUT OF THE
LINE OF FIRE!



HOW DIFFERENT IT ALL WAS FROM THE WAY
GRANDPA HAD TOLD THE STORY! FOR NOW
THE MARSHAL'S THROAT WAS DRY, HIS GUN
HAND TWITCHED NERVOUSLY...

KNOW WHY
WE'RE HERE,
YUH BUZZARD?

I'M WARNIN'
YUH...GIVE YORE-
SELVES UP
**PEACE-
ABLE!**



EVEN AT THE LAST MOMENT HE'D TRIED TO AVOID THE DUEL...
TO NO AVAIL! THE FOUR MEN SLAPPED LEATHER WITH ONE
LIGHTNING MOTION...

BAM!

OH HH!

BAM!

BAM!



A TYSON BULLET
HAD FOUND ITS
MARK! IT WAS ONLY
A GLANCING BLOW,
BUT ENOUGH TO
KNOCK THE MARSHAL
OUT, SEND HIM
REELING TO THE
FLOOR, WHILE EVERY-
THING SPUN ABOUT
HIM, AND THE ROOM
SEEMED ENVELOPED
BY DARK, SWIRLING
MISTS...

OH HH H!



WHEN THE FOG LIFTED...

WHAT HAPPENED?
I HEARD A SHOT!

IT...IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! I
WAS PLAYING WITH THE MARSHAL'S
GUN...IT SLIPPED OUT OF MY
HAND AND WENT OFF...



THIS GUN WENT OFF?
YUH MUST BE LOCO, BOY!
IN THE **FIRST** PLACE, THAR'S
NO **BULLETS** IN IT! IN THE
SECOND PLACE, THE FIRIN'
PIN HAS BEEN BUSTED
NIGH ONTO **20 YEARS**! IN
THE **THIRD** PLACE, THE GUN
AIN'T BEEN FIRED, 'CAUSE
IT'S **COLD** AN' THAR'S NO
SMELL OF **POWDER** IN
THE BARREL!



BUT THAT'S...IMPOSSIBLE! A SHOT
WAS FIRED...IT KNOCKED ME
OUT!

JUMPIN' BLUE BLAZES!
LOOK AT YORE HAIR, JIM...
YUH GOT THE SAME SCAR
AS THE MARSHAL!



WITH ONE STARTLED MOVEMENT
THEY BOTH TURNED TO THE
PORTRAIT HANGING OVER THE
MANTLE...



SIMMERIN' SAGEBRUSH! THAR'S
SMOKE TRAILING FROM THE GUN THAR!

AND THAT'S NOT ALL! LOOK, GRANDPA...
THERE'S A **HOLE** IN THE CANYAS WHERE
THE **BULLET** EMERGED! AS IF THE MARSHAL
FIRED AT ME BECAUSE HE WANTED ME TO
KNOW THE **TRUTH** ABOUT COURAGE!

JIM DAWSON CUT HIS FURLOUGH SHORT,
RETURNED TO DUTY, AND HAD A LONG,
HONEST TALK WITH THE TOP DOCTORS
AT THE BASE HOSPITAL...

IT ALL GOES BACK TO THAT POWER
DIVE YOU PULLED OUT OF! BLACKING OUT
AT 900 MILES AN HOUR **COULD** GIVE
YOU STRANGE HALLUCINATIONS!

THEY STILL HARP ON HALLUCI-
NATIONS...WHEN I'VE GOT THIS
SCAR TO PROVE THAT WHAT HAPPENED
WAS REAL!



HE WAS STILL NERVOUS ABOUT FLYING, BUT NOW HE SAW IT
AS A JOB THAT **SOMEBODY** HAD TO DO...AND HE KNEW THAT
HE WAS NOT BUILT TO SHIRK RESPONSIBILITIES...

YOU'RE **SURE** YOU'RE READY
TO GIVE IT ANOTHER TRIAL?

I SURE AM...
AND RIGHT
NOW!



JIM'S BUDDIES WATCHED HIS FIRST
SOLO AFTER THE ACCIDENT, AND
THEIR FACES WERE WREADED
IN SMILES...



THERE GOES **JIM**!
LOOK AT THOSE FAST
LOOPS...HE'S STILL THE
BEST! I GUESS TAKING
CHANCES JUST COMES
NATURAL TO A KIN
OF MARSHAL
DAWSON!

The END!



100 TOY SOLDIERS \$1.25



100 TOY SOLDIERS,

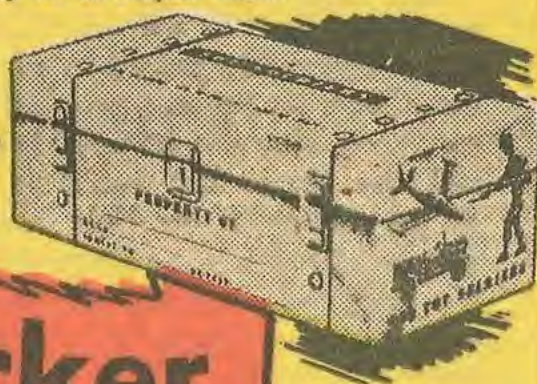
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MYSTERIOUS MIRROR

To France came old and invalided Marguerite Logan, in a vain search for her departed health. Accompanying her was her faithful niece Vera, who for years had devotedly cared for her bedridden aunt. On a hill high over the Mediterranean they rented an ancient chateau. Centuries ago, so the story ran, it had been built by an old sorcerer—a man of magic who used his powers to combat evil. It was said that he had built a mirror which possessed the strange quality of *absorbing* the evil which he encountered, but how this was accomplished was a secret lost with the ages. Suffice to say that the old sorcerer's enemies had disappeared, and that was that. Nobody knew what had happened to the ancient glass, but then, after all, many things disappear over the centuries. Vera thought nothing more about it until the collapse of an old wall in the cellars revealed a hidden room. Its furnishings indicated that it was a private study to which someone had probably repaired for meditation. On one of its walls hung an old looking glass. It was clouded and didn't reflect too clearly, but its frame was a thing of antique carved beauty. It was so lovely that Vera insisted on hanging it above Aunt Marguerite's bed. There was a fine relationship between the two of them. They were both alone in the world, save for Uncle Henry—Marguerite's brother, who hadn't been heard from for years. It was just as well, too, for Henry was a cruel and unprincipled type who had always had too great an influence on his sister. As for Vera, she was a poor girl, deriving her entire support from her aunt, but more than repaying her in the care and devotion which she lavished upon the older woman.

They were happy together in the old chateau. Sometimes Vera would speculate on the possibility that the mirror might be the very one originally owned by the old sorcerer. But outside of its decorative qualities, it could have served no use, for there wasn't any evil to absorb! They used to laugh over this, until, one day, Uncle Henry made a sudden appearance, and laughter fled from the chateau. Ostensibly, he had come to visit his sister Marguerite, but it was apparent just from looking at him that he had been unsuccessful in life

and was probably glad to have this refuge. What Vera *didn't* know was that each night, he would visit his sister and urge her to change her will. Vera, he would say, was only interested in getting her aunt's money. And because of the influence he had always wielded over her, Marguerite began to believe him. It got so that she would only speak to her niece in tones of anger. Finally, she announced to the poor girl that she saw through her completely, and had summoned her lawyer for the purpose of disinheriting Vera.

The lawyer was scheduled to arrive next day. That very night, Henry Logan visited his sister once more, to influence her further and make sure she didn't change her mind. Vera herself spent the entire night weeping. In the morning, when she entered her aunt's chamber dutifully, she was surprised to find Marguerite completely changed. "Please forgive me for my suspicions," the old lady whispered. "I—I must have been crazy ever to doubt you! It was all Henry's fault! He was in here last night, telling more lies about you, when all of a sudden he stopped—and when I looked up, he wasn't even here! And somehow, I knew then that he was wicked, and hadn't been speaking the truth! I wonder where he went to—have you seen him?"

"No," answered Vera, and then paused suddenly. Her eyes had lit upon the ancient mirror which hung over her aunt's bed. Strange, the glass didn't seem as clouded as usual. Even as she looked at it, it was like mists parting. Why, that was odd—there seemed to be a *movement* in the mirror. And then she leaped to her feet, screaming—for *inside* the mirror, looking out at her, was the dark, angry face of Uncle Henry! He seemed to be pounding at the mirror, trying to get out, as if he were a prisoner! And behind him, she saw other faces—villainous and evil, belonging to people dressed in costumes of the long-dead past. And then, suddenly, the cord which supported the mirror broke, and it crashed to smithereens on the floor below. Nothing was left but broken glass. And Vera knew that Uncle Henry would trouble them no more. He was gone with the mysterious mirror which absorbed evil!

"THE WAY THINGS LOOK"---ISN'T THAT WHAT GOVERNS OUR THOUGHTS, OUR DECISIONS, OUR VERY LIVES? IT'S WHAT YOU SEE THAT COUNTS---AND HERE'S A STRANGE, FAST-PACED STORY OF HOW ONE MAN'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY...

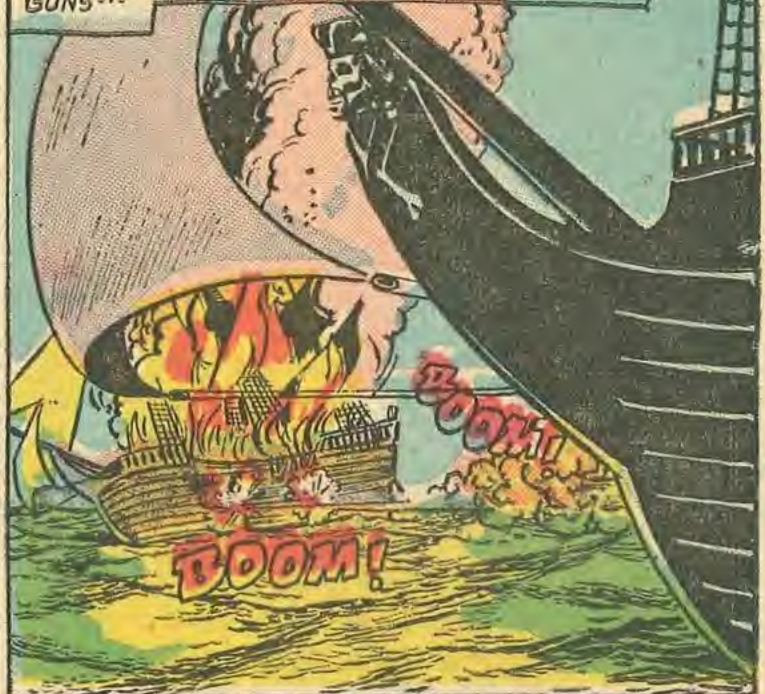
The OLD TELESCOPE!



IN THE YEAR 1693, MEN FLED FROM MANY FEARS! HERE WAS ONE OF THEM---THE PIRATE CRAFT **BLACK BETSY** --- CAPTAIN EPHRAIM PURDY, COMMANDER---



SHIP AFTER SHIP FELL PREY TO HER MURDEROUS GUNS---



AND THE STOLEN TREASURE MOUNTED, MOUNTED...

THERE'S A KING'S RANSOM THERE, AN' YE MAY LAY TO THAT! WHEN ARE WE GONNA DIVIDE IT, CAP'N? THE TIME'S PAST DUE...

SINCE THE CREW SEEMS TO WANT IT SO BADLY, WHY NOT... TOMORROW?



BUT THAT VERY NIGHT...

PULL FOR SHORE, ME BUCKOES! THERE'LL BE LESS TO DIVIDE WITH NOW!



BUT YOU CAN BE SURE THAT ONLY ONE MAN LANDED... CAPTAIN PURDY! WEALTHY, HE TOOK UP A LUXURIOUS RESIDENCE IN MARBLEHEAD...

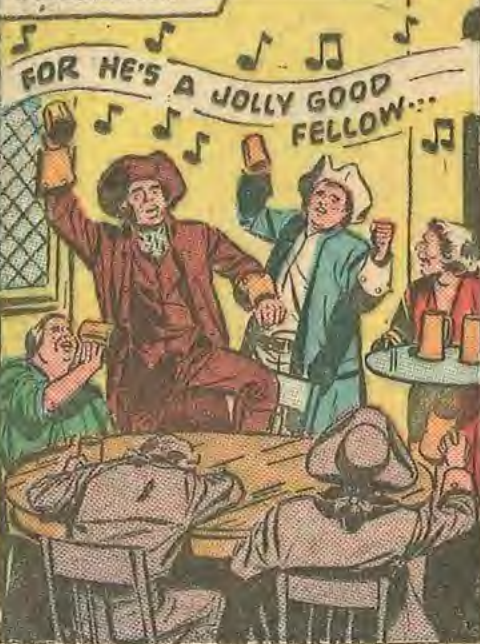
YUP, THAT'S EPHRAIM PURDY! THERE'S SOME AS CLAIMS HE WAS A PIRATE, WITH BLOOD ON HIS SOUL, AND DESERVIN' OF PUNISHMENT FOR HIS SINS!



PUNISHMENT... ME? WHAT A RIDICULOUS THOUGHT...



NO, THERE WAS ONLY EASY LIVING FOR EPHRAIM PURDY... AND CONSTANT CELEBRATION...



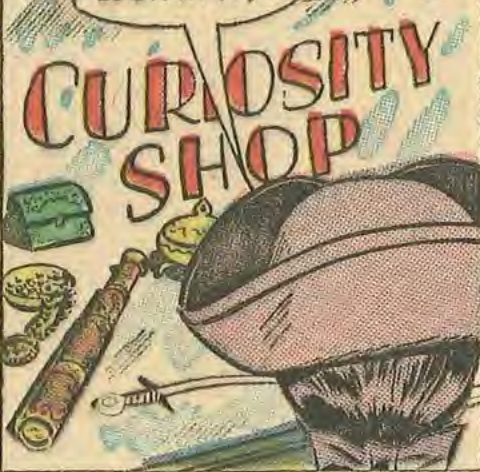
BUT IT WAS A LIFE OF INACTION... AND IT PALLED ON HIM! TIME AND AGAIN, HE FOUND HIMSELF DRAWN TO THE SEA...

OUT THERE, THERE'S THE WIND AND THE WAVE... THE CHALLENGE OF ADVENTURE... BUT WHAT HAVE I TO HOLD ME HERE?



EVEN AS HE TURNED AWAY, HIS ATTENTION WAS CAUGHT BY THE WINDOW OF AN OLD CURIOSITY SHOP... AND THERE...

WHY, IT'S AN ANCIENT TELESCOPE, AND IT'S... BEAUTIFUL! I... I'VE GOT TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT IT!



HE WENT IN TO INSPECT IT---AND IT WAS AS IF A STRANGE CALL WENT OUT FROM IT TO HIM---

I'D BE GLAD TO SELL IT TO YOU, SIR! IT WAS STRANGE HOW IT CAME INTO MY POSSESSION --- LET ME TELL YOU!

"IT WAS JUST LAST WEEK---WHEN I OPENED MY STORE, I FOUND THE OLD MAN THERE, WAITING---WITH A HAUNTED LOOK IN HIS EYE---"

I--- I'VE GOT SOMETHING HERE I WANT TO GET RID OF!

IT IS A LOVELY PIECE! I'LL GIVE YOU 30 FLORINS FOR IT!

NO! THE PRICE IS--- NOTHING!

THERE'S SOMETHING--- **STRANGE** ABOUT IT---ANY MONEY I GOT FOR IT WOULD BE **CURSED**! TAKE IT, BUT BE SURE THAT IT GOES ONLY TO SOMEONE **GOOD**---FOR IT CARRIES ITS OWN PUNISHMENT FOR **EVIL**!

THAT'S THE STORY ---IN TELLING IT, AT LEAST I FEEL I'VE DONE MY **DUTY**!

OLD WIVES' TALES DON'T FRIGHTEN ME! I'LL TAKE IT!

NO SOONER HAD HE LEFT THE SHOP WHEN HE WAS SEIZED WITH AN OVERWHELMING DESIRE---

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'VE GOT TO LOOK THROUGH IT NOW ---WITHOUT WAITING EVEN ANOTHER MOMENT!

HE RAISED THE OLD TELESCOPE TO HIS EYE ---AND THROUGH IT, SAW A SIGHT THAT MADE HIS HEART BEAT WILDLY---

THAT--- THAT GIRL---I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE AS LOVELY IN MY LIFE! I--- I'VE GOT TO MEET HER!

IT WAS EASY FOR A MAN AS WEALTHY AS HE --- AND MARIA MILLS SEEMED TO FAVOR HIM ON THEIR VERY FIRST MEETING---

I'VE HEARD MUCH ABOUT **EPHRAIM PURDY**---IT GIVES ME THE GREATEST PLEASURE TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE!



THEIR ACQUAINTANCE GREW---THEY BECAME VIRTUALLY INSEPARABLE---

YOU DANCE WITH THE GRACE OF A FLOWER, MARIA!

WHO WOULDN'T ---WITH SUCH A PARTNER?



SHE BECAME THE CENTER OF HIS LIFE---HAUNTING EVEN HIS DREAMS---



Then CAME THE GREATEST DAY OF HIS LIFE---THE DAY ON WHICH HE INTENDED TO PROPOSE TO HER! NERVOUSLY, HE AWAITED HER COMING---

I LOVE HER SO---AND I KNOW SHE FEELS THE SAME WAY! SHE'S GOING TO **ACCEPT** ME---I'M SURE OF IT!



THE PROPOSAL WENT OFF STUNNINGLY---

OH, EPHRAIM---**EPHRAIM** ---YOU'VE NO IDEA HOW I'VE LONGED TO HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM YOUR LIPS---

YOU--- YOU MEAN YOU --- **ACCEPT?**



THEN---IN A SUDDEN, AMAZING TURN-ABOUT---

NO, YOU BLACK, VILLAINOUS PIRATE ---I REFUSE!



MARIA---I---I DON'T UNDERSTAND---

ALL ALONG, I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR WHAT YOU WERE! TELL ME, DO YOU REMEMBER THE BARK **WHITE EAGLE**? MY FATHER WAS HER MASTER---UNTIL YOUR MURDEROUS CREW RAN HER DOWN!



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

AMAZING PRECISION MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Takes secret pictures! Easily carried in the palm of your hand —

only 2" x 1/4"



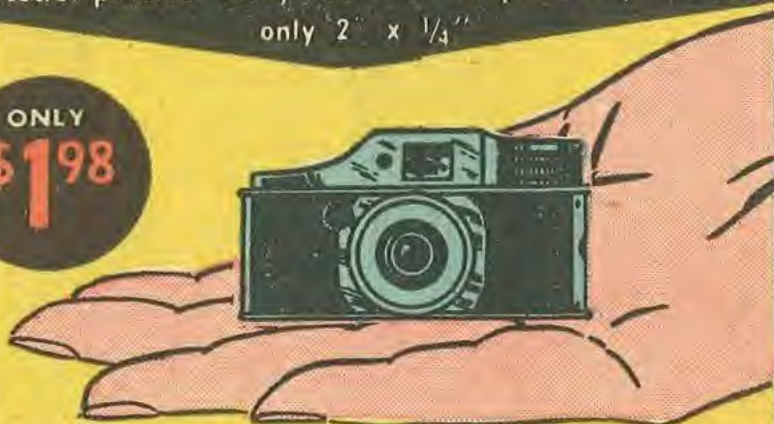
Easily concealed under a flower in your lapel. While they're kissing, you're photographing. Wow! Won't they be surprised. So many other ways to conceal also.



Your girl friend and other bathing beauties will all relax in their natural pose and make a swell pin-up collection. Through a paper is just one of the many ways to go about it.

LOOK! FREE!
Order right away and receive **FREE** one roll of fresh film enough for 10 pictures. Additional film available at only 25¢ per roll of 10 exposures.

ONLY
\$1.98



A precision built camera that is so amazingly small it is less than 1/2 the size of a regular pack of cigarettes and can be taken everywhere you go. It weighs only 2 1/2 ounces and is solid all metal construction with chrome trim. It's got a professional eye level view finder and a single action 1/25th second and time exposure shutter with a precision ground lens that assures you a clear, sharp instantaneous picture. It takes ten pictures per roll on low cost film (standard 16 MM). Makes for beautiful enlargements. So compact and precision made, it can be hidden anywhere and takes true-to-life "spy" pictures that should really provide you with loads of fun and interest. Only \$1.98 complete with a free roll of film. Don't delay! Order now.

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10 DAY FREE TRIAL

We know you'll have so much fun and excitement with your Secret Camera that we offer it to you at 10 Days Free Trial. Use it and if you're not 100% delighted with its performance, return to us and your money will be refunded in full.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. CA-3
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Rush my Secret Camera and free roll of film for \$1.98 at once. If I am not 100% delighted I may return it after 10 Days Free Trial for prompt refund of the full purchase price.

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

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Automatic Firing Tripod Machine Gun

IT'S MAGAZINE FED—SWIVELS IN ALL DIRECTIONS!



Kids, here's an authentic reproduction of a U.S.A. type 1917A1 water cooled machine gun, loaded with devastating fire power. This high-powered hunk of fighting equipment loads ammunition right into the magazine like a real machine gun. Then, by means of the automatic repeating device it fires 10 rounds just as fast as you pull the trigger. It sets up sturdily on its tripod, and the swivel base turns in all directions to assure complete coverage and range, with a special sight attachment to insure a direct hit. Imagine the thrill as you advance with your machine gun blasting the enemy in a hail of fast firing automatic repeating pellets.

DEVELOPS DEADLY TARGET SKILL

A full size target comes to you along with your exciting Tripod Machine Gun. Just like the army training program, you too can acquire great shooting skill, till in no time you'll be hitting the mark with deadly accuracy. But don't delay! Order now. Only \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges.

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- ☐ I enclose \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery

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LOOK AT ALL YOU GET

- Pellet firing Tripod Machine Gun with sight
- Fires 10 rounds as fast as you pull the trigger
- Loads with a magazine
- Full size target for practice
- Full supply of ammunition

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We're so sure that you'll be delighted that we offer a full 10 day Free Trial. You risk nothing. Send only \$1.98 plus 37c shipping charges for the complete outfit including Tripod Machine Gun, full supply of pellets and target.

"HOW YOU LAUGHED WHEN YOU SET HIM ADRIFT IN A HALF-WRECKED BOAT, WITHOUT OARS OR PROVISIONS... THAT WAS YOUR MERCY..."

CAST
THE SWINE
OFF!

HE WAS PICKED
UP A WEEK LATER...
BUT BEFORE HE
DIED HE TOLD THE
STORY... AND I
KNEW WHOM I
HAD TO THANK!
HOW I EXULTED
IN LEADING YOU
ON... FOR THE
LITTLE REVENGE
I COULD
GET!

AND NOW... GET
OUT! I HATE YOU,
YOU CRUEL MONSTER
... AND I'LL ALWAYS
HATE YOU!

THIS WAS THE BLACKEST MOMENT OF
EPHRAIM PURDY'S LIFE... FOR IN HIS
OWN WAY, HE HAD CARED FOR HER...

IT'S LIKE LOSING
... A PART OF MY
LIFE...

BUT HE'D JUST BEGUN TO PAY! NOW
HE COULD NO LONGER STAND THE
WAYS OF SHORE FOLK! HE FELT
A SUDDEN NEED FOR THE SEA...

IT'S FREE OUT
THERE... AND WILD!
THERE'S A DISTANT
SAIL... WONDER
WHAT SHE LOOKS
LIKE?

THROUGH THE OLD TELESCOPE, HE SAW...

THAT SHIP... I'VE
NEVER SEEN FASTER
LINES! SHE'S BIG ENOUGH
FOR HEAVY ARMAMENT,
TOO... WHY, SHE COULD
SWEEP THE
SEAS!

IT TOOK MOST OF HIS FORTUNE... BUT NOW THE
SEA SPRITE WAS HIS...

ALL I NEED
NOW IS THE TOUGHEST
CREW THAT EVER
SHIPPED... AND
THEN...

HE SPREAD THE WORD...AND FROM EVERY QUARTER, DESPERADOES FLOCKED TO HIS BANNER...

YE PROMISE US GOLD... BUT WHERE'LL WE GET IT? BRITAIN'S NAVY PATROLS THE SEAS, AN' PIRACY'S NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE!

FOR YEARS I'VE HAD A PLAN...AND IT WAITED ON A STRONG, FAST SHIP AND A FIGHTING CREW! BUT NOW...**THE TIME'S RIPE!** LISTEN...YOU ALL KNOW OF **MORAGENA**...THE CITY THAT'S THE PIRATE STRONGHOLD OF THE SPANISH MAIN! IT'S CRAMMED WITH PIRATE WEALTH...THE EARTH'S GREATEST TREASURE!



OH, SURE, THEY LEAVE A STRONG GUARD OVER MORAGENA, BUT THEY DON'T EXPECT ATTACK! THAT'S WHERE **WE** MOVE IN...AND THERE'LL BE RICHES FOR ALL! **ARE YOU WITH ME?**

COUNT ME IN! AND ME!

HURRAH!

THREE CHEERS FOR CAP'N PURDY!



BUT ALWAYS, PIRATE SHIPS GUARD IT...EXCEPT ON ALL SAINTS' DAY! THAT'S WHEN THE SPANISH GALLEONS, RETURNING TO SPAIN WITH NEW WORLD GOLD, PASS THROUGH THE NARROWS...IT'S A SUPERSTITION OF THEIRS! THEY GO IN ONE COMPANY, FOR DEFENSE...AND THE PIRATES COME OUT TO PICK OFF ANY STRAGGLERS!



THE PIRATE SHIPS WOULD LEAVE MORAGENA UNGUARDED FOR BUT A SHORT WHILE! IT WAS A MATTER OF TIMING...



WE CAN ONLY AFFORD TO GIVE THEM A SIX HOUR START! AND THEN...**WE STRIKE!**

AND SO THE **SEA SPRITE** SWOOPED DOWN ON THE PIRATE STRONGHOLD, GUNS BLAZING! HARBOR BATTERIES RETURNED THE FIRE...



BUT THE BATTERIES WERE SILENCED...AND CAPTAIN PURDY'S CREW SWARMED ASHORE IN A MIGHTY RUSH!



SWEEP THEM BACK, MEN!



THE PIRATE DEFENDERS WERE OVERWHELMED IN A DEADLY CHARGE---

RUN... THEY'RE TOO STRONG FOR US!

MERCY!

MAKE FOR THE CITADEL ON THE HILL! THAT'S WHERE THEY'VE GOT THE GOLD!



LATER---ABOARD THE PIRATE FLAGSHIP, AT SEA---

AHOY! SMOKE FROM THE DIRECTION O' MORAGENA!

THE CITY MUST BE AFIRE! SIGNAL TO THE OTHER CRAFT TO RETURN AT TOP SPEED!



AS THE TREASURE WAS LOADED ABOARD THE SEA SPRITE---

WE'LL ALL LIVE LIKE KINGS FOR THE REST OF OUR DAYS!

THAT'S WHAT THE CREW OF THE **BLACK BETSY** THOUGHT---UNTIL I TAUGHT THEM DIFFERENT! I'LL DO THE SAME THING AGAIN---AND **ALL** OF IT WILL BE MINE!



JUST THEN---

CAP'N PURDY! THE PIRATE SHIPS... I JUST SIGHTED THEIR SAILS CROSSIN' THE HORIZON! THEY'RE COMIN' BACK!

HOIST ALL SAILS! WE'VE GOT TO MAKE A RUN FOR IT!



THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR---WE'RE OUTDISTANCING 'EM!

WHY DO YOU THINK I CHOSE THIS SHIP THE VERY FIRST TIME MY TELESCOPE PICKED HER OUT? I KNEW THAT **NOTHING** COULD CATCH HER!

NOTHING? SUDDENLY...STRANGELY...THE WIND SEEMED TO DIE OUT OF THE SEA SPRITE'S SAILS...BUT THE PURSUING PIRATES ONLY CAME ON FASTER!



THEY---THEY'RE COMING UP FAST, CAP'N! IT'LL BE ALL UP WITH US IF---

STEER FOR THE COAST! IT'S PITTED WITH COUNTLESS COVES --- WE MAY BE ABLE TO HIDE IN ONE OF THEM!



I'M AFRAID OF THIS RUGGED COAST! THERE ARE ROCKS AND REEFS EVERYWHERE---

IN THAT CASE, I'D BETTER TAKE OVER! THERE'S NO Surer HAND ON THE WHEEL THAN MINE!

FOG AND STORM ADDED TO THE HAZARDS, AND THE PURSUIT WAS EVEN CLOSER---



THEY'RE GAININ' EVERY SECOND, CAP'N PURDY!

YOU'RE RIGHT---THEY'RE OPENING UP WITH THEIR GUNS NOW! I---I'D LIKE TO STEER CLOSER IN TO SHORE, BUT I DON'T DARE TO---I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S AHEAD IN THESE WATERS!



WAIT A MINUTE---WHAT SORT OF FOOL AM I, ANYWAY? I'VE FORGOTTEN THIS **OLD TELESCOPE** OF MINE--- WITH A LENS SO CLEAR IT'LL DISCLOSE **EVERY-THING!**

HE TURNED THE TELESCOPE SHOREWARD---AND GASPED! FOR THROUGH IT, HE SAW A QUIET COVE OF GENTLE WATERS, HIDDEN BY FOLIAGE---



JUST THE PLACE! IT WON'T BE SEEN FROM OUT HERE---AND WE'LL HIDE IN THERE UNTIL THE PIRATES ARE WELL PAST!



WHAT WAS IT THAT THE OLD MAN SAID ABOUT THE TELESCOPE CARRYING ITS OWN PUNISHMENT FOR **EVIL**? WOULD YOU CALL RETURNING WITH THE GREATEST TREASURE IN HISTORY **PUNISHMENT**?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CAPTAIN? LOOK OUT!

LOOK AT WHAT
YOU'RE STEERING
FOR! TURN THE
WHEEL...**ARGH!**

YOU FOOL, HAVE YOU
GONE **CRAZY?** I'M
HEADING FOR A SHELTERED,
SAFE ANCHORAGE...I JUST
SPOTTED IT THROUGH MY
TELESCOPE!

POW!



**BUT WHAT THE MATE
HAD SEEN WAS---**

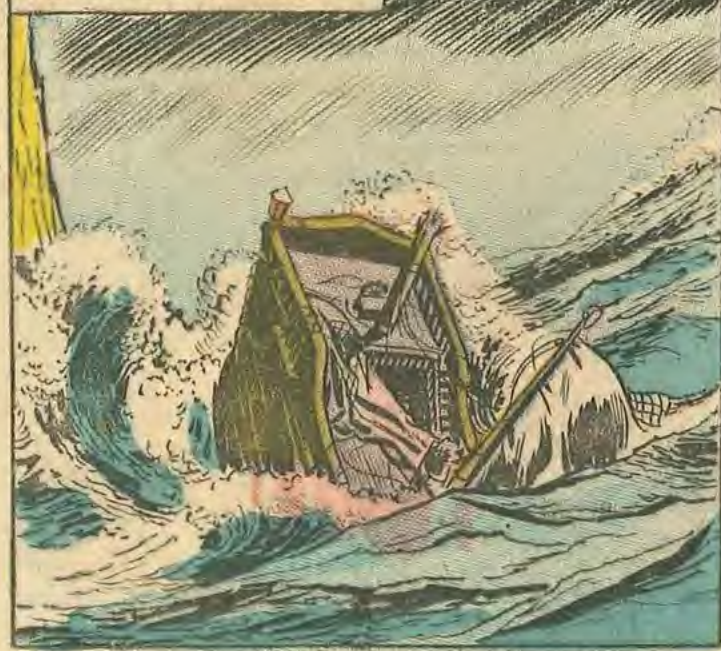


**NO, THERE'D NEVER BEEN A HIDDEN ANCHORAGE!
THERE WAS ONLY...TRAGEDY!**

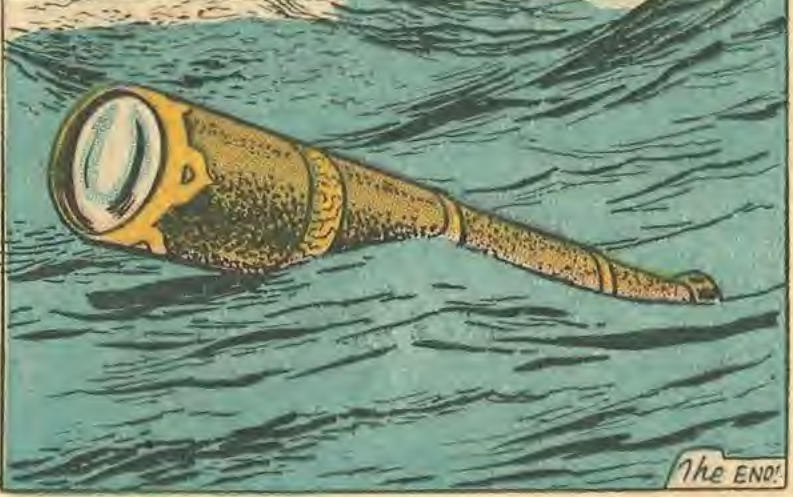


CR-RASH!

**DOWN WENT THE SEA SPRITE WITH CAPTAIN EPHRAIM
PURDY...WITH ITS CREW...WITH THE GREATEST
TREASURE IN THE WORLD...**



**STRANGELY, ONLY ONE THING WAS LEFT AFLOAT...THE OLD
TELESCOPE...WHICH HAD LIVED UP TO ITS REPUTATION, AND
PUNISHED EVIL! THROUGH IT, CAPTAIN EPHRAIM PURDY HAD
FIRST SEEN MARIA MILLS, AND HAD HIS HEART BROKEN
...THROUGH IT, HE HAD FIRST SIGHTED THE SEA SPRITE,
AND BEEN LAUNCHED ON HIS FATAL MISSION! AND
FINALLY...HADN'T IT SHOWN HIM SAFETY...WHERE
ONLY DEATH LOOMED?**



IT'S IN THIS JAR!

3-WAY HELP FOR LONGER-LOOKING HAIR

SO EASY! LONG-AID WITH NEW K-7 CONDITIONS SHORT, BRITTLE HAIR TREATS DRY SCALP, AND DRESSES HAIR ALL-IN-ONE!



Do you want longer-looking, shinier hair for those new, ultra-feminine hair-dos... easy to swirl, curl and brush up or under? Check hair beauty you want below. Send coupon now for Long-Aid, and I'll prove you can have lovelier hair

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It's in the jar—that's the secret! Long-Aid dresses hair... conditions hair and scalp like nothing else with 3 wonder-working ingredients.

First, extra-rich lanolin relieves your dry, thirsty scalp with nature's own oil... helps hair look glamorously longer, softer.

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Third, miracle new K-7 kills certain scalp bacteria, helps relieve itching irritation. Helps keep hair clean-smelling.

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- ☐ I enclose \$1.00, plus 10c Fed. tax (cash, check or money order.) Long-Aid pays all postage.
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STYLE #400

Snake-Zebra Design—Printed Plastic can be used on either side. Gives snappy distinctive dress up appearance. Front or Rear Seat only

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TWO-TONE

STYLE #500

Leopard Cowhide design on Printed Flexton Plastic. Leopard on one side, Cowhide on the other. Either side gives beauty to your car's seats. Never gets dirty for it cleans with a whisk of a damp cloth. Front or Rear.

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AUTO SEAT COVERS

MADE OF FLEXTON — SERVICE GAUGE PLASTIC FOR LONG WEAR

• Waterproof. Easy to attach to seats for good fit. Roomy and neat. Elastic shirring and reinforced overlap side grips insure over-all seat coverage. Will dress up your car's interior and give protection to seat upholstery. Whisk off mud, oil, sand, grime with a damp rag for bright as new appearance. Sewn with nylon thread for long wear and durability.

ORDER FROM MANUFACTURER AND SAVE!

Choice of split or front seat styles only \$2.98 each. Complete set for Front & Rear only \$5.00. Specify make of car and seat style with each order. Save Money and buy a set today.

5 day Money Back Guarantee!

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Please send me seat covers I have marked. I can try for 10 days and return for refund of purchase price if I am not satisfied.

- ☐ Zebra-Snake Design, Reversible 2 TONE
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☐ Split Seat \$2.98 ☐ Solid Seat \$2.98
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☐ I enclose payment ☐ Send C.O.D.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

**RUSH
ORDER TODAY!**

From **YOUR EDITOR-** to **YOU!**

Our monthly greetings to all fans of "Forbidden Worlds"! We've got a rather important subject to discuss at this meeting. We refer to what we term our "text" stories, the one-page non-picture stories such as "Mysterious Mirror", which appears in this current issue. Through the years, we receive many letters from readers bearing upon such features. Some, who desire as much picture-story material as possible, urge that we eliminate pages like these. Others express a preference for them. Before asking you for *your* opinion, let us inform you that postal regulations require that we carry two text pages per issue. There's no getting around this stipulation. Therefore, we have gone to considerable pains to make these pages as chockful of interest as possible. We've made one of them into the present editorial page, in which all of us can get together and exchange views and news. For the other, we always present the finest, most gripping story we can secure. We are now confronted with two questions which we wish to pass along to you. First, do you wish that we continue "From Your Editor - To You!"—or should we replace it by a second fictional text story? And second—are you satisfied with the type of fictional text stories that "Forbidden Worlds" has been carrying? If not, we should appreciate any suggestions you can make. Send your letters on these or any other subjects to The Editor, "Forbidden Worlds", 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. We'll print them if space permits. Meanwhile, let's have a look at what some of our other readers are saying!

"Dear Editor:—

A lot of people don't realize that it takes good pictures to tell a story well. 'Forbidden Worlds' sure has them! Your art is lifelike and thrilling, particularly your covers. It's a pleasure to read a magazine that goes all-out for its readers!

—Elihu Miller, New Rochelle, N. Y."

And it's a pleasure to get mail from readers that go all-out for their favorite magazine!

Thanks a lot, Elihu—we'll do our best to continue our high art standards!

"Dear Editor:—

In the December issue of 'Forbidden Worlds', you ran a story entitled 'Man With The Crescent Scar'. This is just to say that I've been buying comics for years, and this is the best story I ever read.

—Johannes Ullmer, Cleveland, O."

Nice of you to say so! We've read better ourselves—but the fact remains that this one had a high batting average! A lot of folks liked it, we're glad to state!

"Dear Editor:—

Your editorial page is a real phoney. You only publish letters that praise your stuff. You wouldn't have nerve enough to run one that tells the truth—your mag is awful!

Tony, Los Angeles, Cal."

Afraid to use your last name, Tony? You're the one who lacks nerve, not us. And we don't believe that your opinion's the truth, either. We put our all into making "Forbidden Worlds" the best going—and most of our readers think we're succeeding!

"Dear Editor:—

Just got your January number. 'The Man Without Feelings' was great, as was 'The House On Cullen's Peak'. And 'The Tiny World' was fascinating. Why, oh why did you have to spoil things by an also-ran like 'The Hydrogen Breathers'?

—Betty Lou Ambers, Miami, Fla."

We're sorry, Betty. "The Hydrogen Breathers" didn't measure up to our usual fare. But you've got to admit that it takes just one like that to show how fine the others were!

"Dear Editor:—

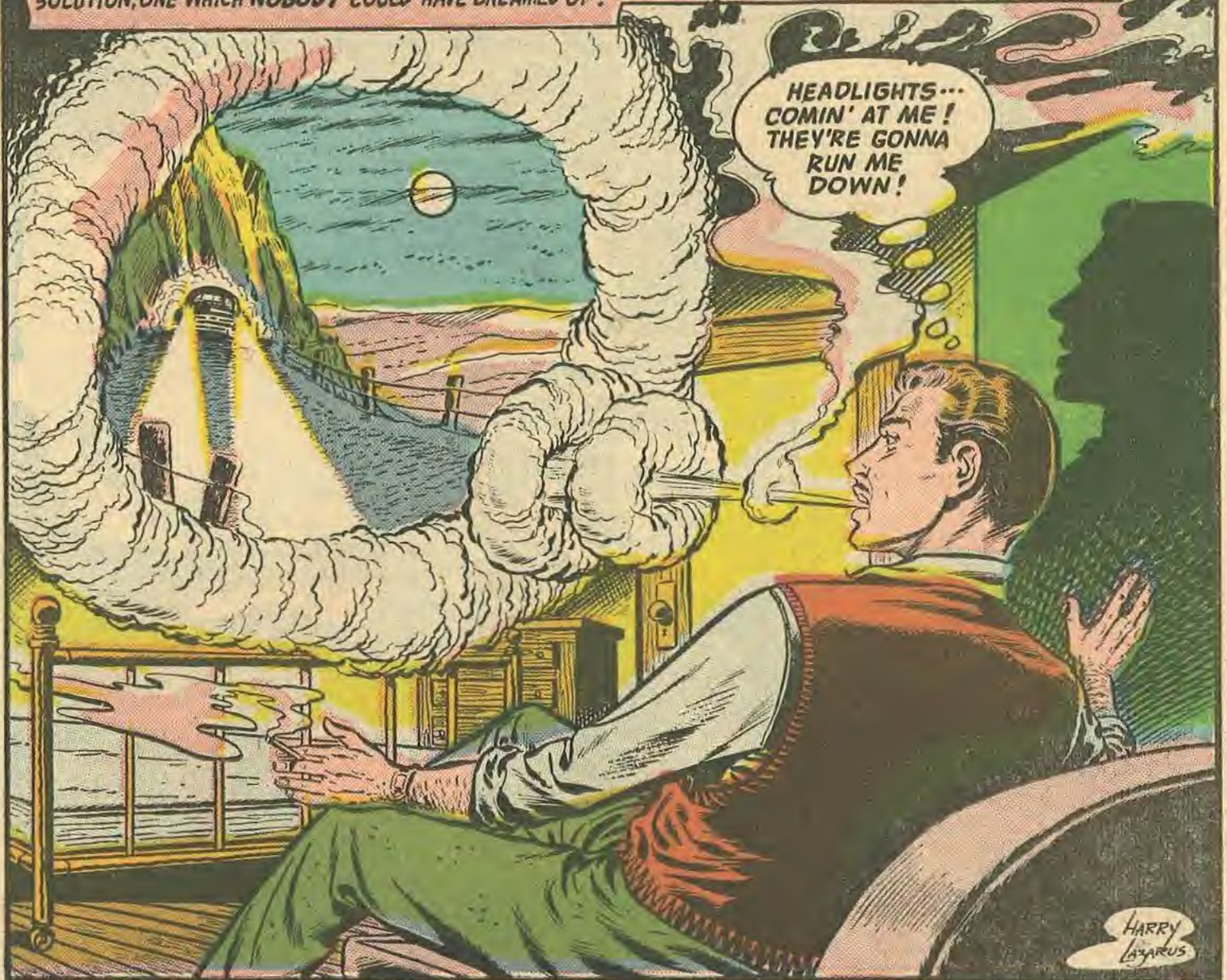
I like what you folks at 'Forbidden Worlds' are doing—all except one thing. There's too much dialogue—too many captions and balloons. Me, I like action!

—R. W. Gonzalez, Eau Claire, Wis."

Any story that was all action would collapse under its own weight. You've got to have plot to give a yarn character and suspense. Take our word, we know—we tried the other kind in the old days of comics, and it was no go!

SMOKE RINGS!

IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT WHEN A MAN HITS BOTTOM, THERE'S NO PLACE FOR HIM TO GO BUT UP! THAT'S WHAT CHICK CROWLEY THOUGHT WHEN HE HIT A BAD STREAK OF LUCK AT THE RACE TRACK!...BUT EVENTS WERE TO PROVIDE YET ANOTHER SOLUTION, ONE WHICH NOBODY COULD HAVE DREAMED OF!



THERE ARE SOME GAMBLERS WHO BELIEVE IN HELPING LADY LUCK ALONG...

THE ROLL'S DOWN TO 60 DOLLARS!
THE WAY THE NAGS HAVE BEEN RUNNING
FOR ME LATELY, I'VE GOT TO PICK A
SURE WINNER!



AT THE TRACK HE THOUGHT MATTERS OVER CAREFULLY...

HERE'S A GOOD LONG SHOT!
SMOKEY...RUNNING AT 80-1!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO
MAKE A KILLING!



IN HIS POCKET CHICK CROWLEY HAD A CHEMICALLY TREATED LUMP OF SUGAR! HE HAD TO BE CAREFUL SNEAKING BEHIND TO THE STABLES...



THAT'S IT, SMOKEY, OLD BOY! A BOOSTER SHOT FOR YOU AND MY MONEY RIDING ON YOUR NOSE FOR ME!

THE 6TH RACE...AND THE SLOW OLD HORSE CHARGED OUT OF THE STARTING GATE AT A FAST CLIP, QUICKLY TOOK A LONG LEAD...



DIDN'T THINK THAT REFUGEE FROM THE GLUE FACTORY COULD RUN THAT FAST!

SUCKERS! MAN, WHAT A BLOWUP I'M HAVIN' TONIGHT!

BUT WITH THE FINISH LINE ONLY YARDS AWAY, AND THE HORSE GALLOPING WITH A TEN-LENGTH LEAD, SUDDENLY...



LOOK OUT!

THE BADLY INJURED JOCKEY WAS CARRIED OFF ON A STRETCHER, AND THE HORSE HAD TO BE DESTROYED...



WHAT ROTTEN LUCK! THE OLD NAG WOULD'VE BEEN IN PASTURE BEFORE LONG!

FINISHED... BROKE... I'M BUSTED!

DAZED, CHICK STOPPED AT A DINER ON THE WAY HOME FOR A CUP OF COFFEE...



IT'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR ME...WHAT HAPPENS NOW? BLAZES, WHAT A TIME TO RUN OUT OF SMOKE!

HE FISHED INTO HIS POCKET, FOUND A QUARTER, AND INSERTED IT IN THE SHINY NEW VENDING MACHINE FOR HIS FAVORITE BRAND! DISTRACTED, HE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE STRANGE PACK WHICH EMERGED...



THAT STUPID JOCKEY... IT WAS HIS FAULT THE HORSE STUMBLER!

BUT BACK IN HIS ROOM...



WHAT THE...! WHAT KIND OF CRUMMY CIGS ARE THESE? NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE MAKE! OH WELL, A BUTT'S A BUTT!



STRANGE, THESE CIGS GIVE OFF MORE SMOKE THAN A CHIMNEY! TASTE KINDA FUNNY, TOO... MAKE ME FEEL A LITTLE DIZZY! BOY, THIS IS THE LOWEST DAY OF MY LIFE... NO, IT STILL DOESN'T COMPARE TO THE WORST ONE!



DIZZILY HIS MIND DRIFTED BACK, TO THAT ONE AWFUL EXPERIENCE HE'D NEVER FORGOTTEN...

FUNNY HOW A GUY'S IMAGINATION CAN PLAY TRICKS! IT'S AS IF I SEE SOMETHIN' INSIDE THAT SMOKE RING! GREAT GUNS... IT'S A CAR! IT'S COMIN' RIGHT AT ME... JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS A KID!

EVERYTHING BECAME TERRIBLY REAL INSIDE THE CIRCLE OF SMOKE, AND CHICK SUDDENLY FELT HIMSELF SUCKED INTO ITS FRAME...



THAT FOOL DRIVER! WHY DOESN'T HE DIM HIS LIGHTS?

THEY'RE SURE BRIGHT!



THAT CAR'S OUT OF CONTROL! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

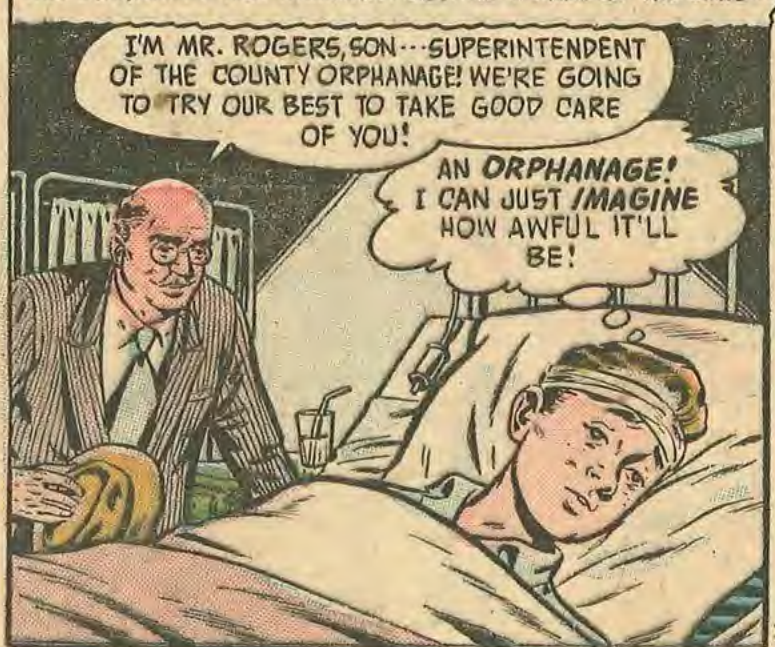
DAD!

THERE WAS A FEARFUL RENDING OF STEEL... THEN DARKNESS AND SILENCE! THE LAD WAS RECOVERING CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN...



RUSH THE BOY TO THE HOSPITAL! POOR KID, HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED OUTRIGHT!

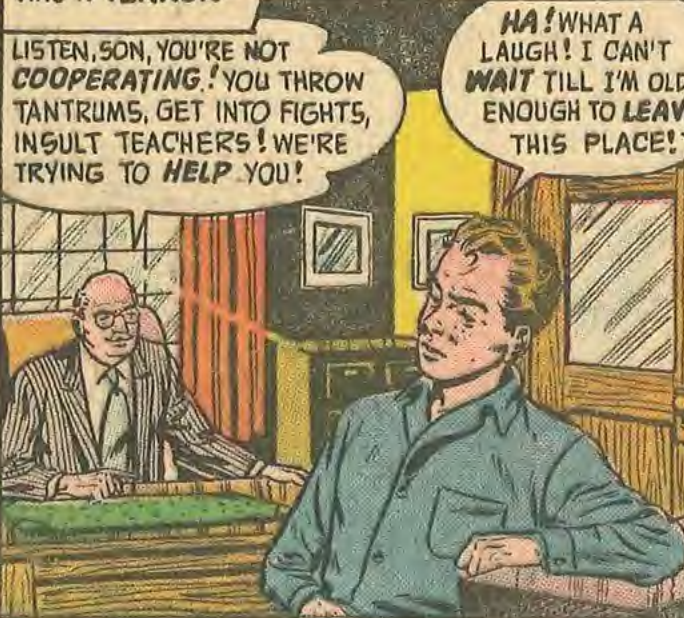
THE BOY, HAPPY TILL THEN, NOW BECAME A WARD OF THE STATE...



I'M MR. ROGERS, SON... SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY ORPHANAGE! WE'RE GOING TO TRY OUR BEST TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!

AN ORPHANAGE! I CAN JUST IMAGINE HOW AWFUL IT'LL BE!

FROM THE MOMENT CHICK CROWLEY ENTERED THE HOME HE WAS A TERROR...



LISTEN, SON, YOU'RE NOT COOPERATING! YOU THROW TANTRUMS, GET INTO FIGHTS, INSULT TEACHERS! WE'RE TRYING TO HELP YOU!

HA! WHAT A LAUGH! I CAN'T WAIT TILL I'M OLD ENOUGH TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!

WHEN CHICK AWOKE FROM HIS TRANCE HE FOUND THAT HOURS HAD PASSED, AND HIS CIGARETTES WERE ALMOST GONE---

YEAH, I'VE HAD ONE ROTTEN BREAK AFTER THE OTHER SINCE MY FOLKS DIED! WHAT NOW? CAN'T BORROW A CENT! IF I COULD ONLY GET MY HANDS ON A HORSE, A **GREAT** HORSE--ONE THAT COULD BEAT ALL OPPOSITION! BOY, I SURE FEEL **DIZZY**---



HE PUFFED AWAY NERVOUSLY, BLOWING DENSE CLOUDS OF SMOKE INTO THE ALREADY STUFFY ROOM! IT SEEMED AS IF THE SMOKE WERE MOCKING HIS INNER THOUGHTS---

SEEMS ALMOST LIKE A HORSE WERE TAKIN' SHAPE OUT THERE! GOOD GRIEF, NOW I'M HEARIN' THINGS!

WHINNNEEE!



AS HE STARED INCREDULOUSLY, THE SMOKE TOOK DEFINITE SHAPE! AND THERE, STANDING BEFORE HIM, WAS A **MAGNIFICENT STEED**---

WHINNNEEE!

I---I'VE GONE MAD!

OPEN UP! WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE?



THE AMAZED NEIGHBORS RESTORED HIS BELIEF IN HIS OWN SANITY---

WHAT'S A HORSE DOING IN HERE? THAT WHINNYING WOKE ME UP!

I---I COULDN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN! JUST HELP ME GET THIS NAG INTO THE STREET!



STILL TREMBLING WITH ASTONISHMENT, HE CALLED A FRIEND---

NEVER MIND HOW I GOT THE HORSE! JUST GET A TRAILER OVER HERE AND HELP ME GET HIM TO THE TRACK! I TELL YOU HE LOOKS LIKE A **WINNER**!



NEXT MORNING---

HE'S SURE BIG AND STRONG LOOKING! WHAT'S HIS NAME?

I'M CALLIN' HIM **DIABLO**! WHAT SAY YOU MOUNT UP AND RUN HIM A MILE TRIAL?



THE LITTLE GROUP COULD HARDLY BELIEVE THEIR EYES---

I---I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HE **BROKE THE TRACK RECORD**!

AND HE WASN'T EVEN RUNNING **HARD**!



IT WAS EASY ENOUGH THEN TO BORROW THE MONEY TO ENTER THE HORSE IN RACES! CHICK CROWLEY'S LUCK HAD CHANGED...BEYOND HIS WILDEST DREAMS!



WITH MONEY POURING IN, CHICK WAS LIVING HIGH! HIS ONLY PROBLEM WAS A PECULIAR ONE...KEEPING JOCKEYS...



MEANWHILE, CHICK WAS DOING A LITTLE INVESTIGATING ON THE ORIGIN OF THE AMAZING PACK OF CIGARETTES HE HAD SMOKED...



IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF "WORLD TOBACCO INSTITUTE"...



CHICK HAD CAREFULLY COLLECTED THE BUTTS OF THE "DIABLOS" HE HAD SMOKED, AND WHEN HE HAD THEIR CONTENTS ANALYZED...



HE WAS NATURALLY STAGGERED BY THE INFORMATION, BUT AS LONG AS THE MONEY KEPT ROLLING IN...WHAT DID HE CARE? SIX MONTHS LATER HE'D MADE HIS FIRST MILLION...



HAVING HARBORED A BITTER GRUDGE SO MANY YEARS, HE LOOKED FORWARD TO TELLING THE MAN OFF PERSONALLY...





YOU WERE TREATED WELL, AS ALL OUR BOYS ARE! WE'RE CONSIDERED A MODEL HOME, THE BEST IN THE STATE---BUT YOU NEVER GAVE US A CHANCE!

OH, YEAH? LET'S FORGET IT ---BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!



NEXT DAY AT THE TRACK, ANOTHER ECHO FROM THE PAST---

HEY, CHICK! ---CHICK! REMEMBER ME?

BOB ---BOB TATUM!



HE HADN'T SEEN BOB TATUM SINCE THE DAY HE'D LEFT THE ORPHANAGE---

I'M JUST STARTING OUT AS A LAWYER, CHICK---BUT I SEE YOU'RE IN THE CHIPS! SWELL TO SEE YOU DOING SO WELL!

I AIN'T COMPLAININ'! HOW'S ABOUT INTRODUCIN' ME?

THE THREE SPENT THE AFTERNOON TOGETHER, JOINED FOR DINNER AFTERWARDS! THE FIRST MOMENT CHICK WAS ALONE WITH THE GIRL---



MIND GIVIN' ME YOUR NUMBER, BABY? OR ARE YOU AND BOB GOIN' STEADY?

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS! MY NUMBER'S IN THE PHONE BOOK, CHICK!



WELL, WELL, I SEE YOU TWO ARE HITTING IT OFF! HEY, CHICK, HOW'D YOU HIT THE TOP? YOU WERE ALWAYS SUCH A RASCAL AS A KID, NEVER LET ANYBODY HELP YOU!

THAT'S A LAUGH! NOBODY EVER TRIED TO HELP ME!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, CHICK AND DORIS HAD THEIR FIRST DATE ALONE---



I MEAN IT, KID---THERE'S SOMETHIN' SPECIAL ABOUT YOU! I AIN'T BEEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO MEET GIRLS LIKE YOU---

THAT'S AWFULLY SWEET, CHICK! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I FEEL YOU'VE GOT THE MAKINGS OF QUITE A GUY!

FOR ONCE IN HIS LIFE, HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH! THE GIRL STIRRED HIM DEEPLY---HE WAS NEVER SO HAPPY AS WHEN WITH HER---AND IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS THEY SAW EACH OTHER CONSTANTLY---



I'M NUTS ABOUT YOU, DORIS---I---I MEAN, I LOVE YOU!

AND I'M FOND OF YOU, CHICK---VERY FOND!

HE WAS WALKING ON A CLOUD BUT WHEN AT LAST HE PROPOSED---

WHATTA YA MEAN, YOU WON'T TAKE IT? DONCHA UNDERSTAND? I'M ASKIN' YOU TO **MARRY ME!**

I---I **CAN'T**, CHICK! IT---IT WOULDN'T WORK!

I DON'T WANT TO **HURT** YOU, BUT THE TRUTH IS I CAN'T **MARRY** A MAN LIKE YOU! YOU'RE BOORISH, SELFISH, UNEDUCATED, CRUDE! YOU'VE GOT THE **MAKINGS** OF A REAL PERSON, BUT THEY'RE BURIED AWFULLY DEEP!

I---I SUPPOSE IF I WAS SOME PENNY-ANTE LAWYER LIKE BOB, IT'D BE OKAY!

IF ONLY YOU **WERE** AS THOUGHTFUL AS BOB AND EVEN ONE HALF AS EDUCATED, I'D MARRY YOU TOMORROW! BUT YOU'RE NOT, AND YOU NEVER WILL BE! I---I'M SORRY, CHICK--BUT IT HAD TO BE SAID!

UNTIL LATE INTO THE NIGHT, CHICK BROODED! FOR THE FIRST TIME, HE FACED THE TRUTH ABOUT HIMSELF---

EVERYTHING DORIS SAID IS **TRUE!** I WISH I HADN'T BEEN SO HARD ON OLD ROGERS---I GUESS HE DID HIS BEST BY ME! MAYBE--MAYBE IF I SEND HIM OFF A FAT CHECK NOW---

BUT HE KNEW THAT MONEY ALONE COULD NOT MAKE AMENDS---

I'VE WASTED MY WHOLE LIFE! I COULD'VE BEEN A LAWYER MYSELF, EVEN A DOCTOR... IF I'D ONLY WISED UP IN TIME! THAT'S THE TROUBLE, IN THIS WORLD A GUY NEVER GETS A **SECOND CHANCE!**--- HMM, WONDER WHAT'S BOTHERIN' **DIABLO?**

WHINNNEEE

RESTLESS HIMSELF, HE DECIDED TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE HORSE IN THE NEARBY STALLS---

WHAT'S THE COMMOTION? THE WAY YOUR EYES ARE BLAZIN' IS ENOUGH TO **SCARE** A GUY! YOU'RE WELL NAMED, YOU KNOW? YOU REALLY **DO** LOOK LIKE A DEVIL! HEY, **STOP KICKIN'!** I'LL LET YOU OUT!

BAM!
BAM!

TO CALM THE MAGNIFICENT STEED, HE OPENED THE STALL, INTENDING TO WALK THE BEAST IN THE FRESH AIR! BUT THE HORSE'S BLAZING EYES NOW MET CHICK'S DIRECTLY---

THE WAY HE'S BENDIN' HIS HEAD---SOMEHOW I KNOW HE WANTS ME TO **MOUNT** HIM! NOT **ME**--- I AIN'T NEVER---THOSE FIERY EYES, I CAN'T STOP LOOKIN' AT 'EM---IT'S LIKE THEY'RE **MAKIN'** ME OBEY!

WITH HIS WILL POWER DRAINING FROM HIM, CHICK MOUNTED THE GREAT WILD STALLION'S BACK! AT THAT INSTANT---



N-NO!
STOP!
LET ME
OFF!

WHINNNEE!
CR-RASH!

WITH A GREAT LEAP FORWARD DIABLO GALLOPED WILDLY TOWARD THE WOODS AMID THE RISING ELECTRICAL STORM! CHICK, HIS HEART POUNDING, HELD ON FOR DEAR LIFE---



STOP, DIABLO--
STOP! OH, MY GOSH,
WHERE ARE THOSE
MISTS COMING
FROM?

CRASH!

POOM-PATTA-BOOM-PATTA

SMOKY SWIRLS SEEMED TO ENSHROUD THE WOODS, TILL ALL AT ONCE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE ANYTHING! ON THEY GALLOPED, AND NOW HE COULD NO LONGER HEAR THE CLATTER OF HOOVES!



THERE'S NO GROUND
BENEATH US! IT'S LIKE
WE'VE GALLOPED INTO
THE SKY! STOP---
PLEASE!

BUT THERE WAS NO STOPPING THE UNSPEAKABLY POWERFUL MOUNT UNDER HIM! CHICK'S VOICE WAS HOARSE WITH SHRIEKING, HE THOUGHT ALL HIS EMOTIONS THOROUGHLY SPENT WHEN---



H-HEADLIGHTS!
IT'S LIKE THAT
NIGHT WHEN---!
NO... NO...
NO!

THERE WAS A FEARFUL CRASH---THEN DARKNESS AND SILENCE! HE WAS RECOVERING CONSCIOUSNESS WHEN---



RUSH THE BOY TO
THE HOSPITAL! POOR
KID, HIS PARENTS WERE
KILLED OUTRIGHT!

IT WAS NOT UNTIL HE WAS IN THE AMBULANCE THAT HE COULD THINK AT ALL CLEARLY---



HE'S BADLY SHAKEN UP---
BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

ALL RIGHT! YES, THIS
TIME I **WILL** BE ALL
RIGHT! DIABLO GALLOPED
ME BACK TO WHERE I
TOOK THE WRONG TURNING!
I'M A BOY AGAIN--- I'M
GETTING A **SECOND
CHANCE!**

AND WHEN, LATER, HE LEARNED THAT HE WAS A WARD OF THE STATE, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY ORPHANAGE HAD COME TO SEE HIM---



WE'RE GOING TO TRY
OUR BEST TO TAKE
GOOD CARE OF
YOU!

I'M SURE WE'LL GET
ALONG FINE, MR. ROGERS!
I WANT TO **BE** SOMEBODY
WHEN I GROW UP! AND
SOMETHING TELLS
ME I **WILL!**

The END!

EXPLANATION, PLEASE!

NO. 4.



The **DOG THAT LIVED AGAIN!**

IT WAS THE YEAR 1392...THE KING OF FRANCE, TOGETHER WITH A PARTY OF HIS COURTIER'S, WAS HUNTING IN THE ROYAL FOREST! ACCOMPANYING THE GROUP WAS THE COURT JESTER--AND THE JESTER'S DOG--

FOOL, YOU **DARE** BRING ALONG SUCH A CUR ON A ROYAL HUNT?

LET THE BEAST REMAIN! ITS STRANGE APPEARANCE AMUSES ME!



FORTUNATE WORDS...FOR WHEN A FIERCE BOAR MENACED THE KING, IT WAS THE DOG THAT PROVED A LIFESAVER---

THANK... HEAVENS...



THE DOG DIED IN HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE BIG TUSKER! IN GRATITUDE FOR HAVING BEEN THUS SPARED, THE KING ORDERED THAT THE DOG BE STUFFED AND MOUNTED---AND DISPLAYED BENEATH THE MONARCH'S PORTRAIT---



TIME PASSED---IT WAS TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER THAT ANOTHER FRENCH RULER FOUND HIMSELF IN DIRE PERIL--- THIS TIME FROM A MAD DOG!

MAD DOG! MAD DOG!

OH---



AT THE LAST MOMENT, A STRANGE ANIMAL HURTLIED TO THE RESCUE! FEARLESSLY, IT DESTROYED THE ATTACKING BEAST---BUT MET DEATH IN THE PROCESS---

THE BRAVE CREATURE ---IT'S... **SAVED MY LIFE!**



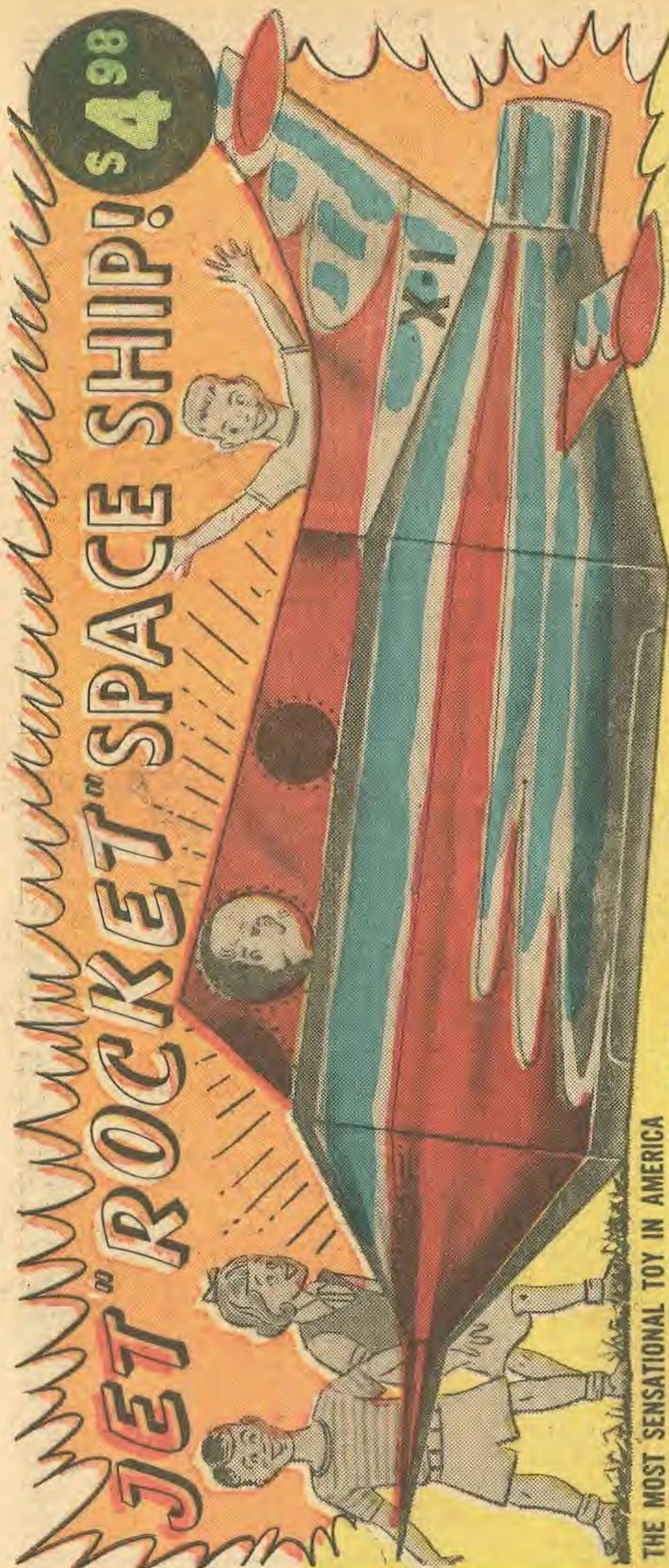
GRATEFUL FOR HIS GOOD FORTUNE, THE KING ORDERED THAT THE COURAGEOUS ANIMAL BE STUFFED AND MOUNTED, THEN DISPLAYED IN THE ROYAL MUSEUM BELOW HIS PORTRAIT! AND THERE AN ASTOUNDING DISCOVERY WAS MADE---

IT---IT'S THE **SAME DOG!**



CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT, READER?

The **END!**



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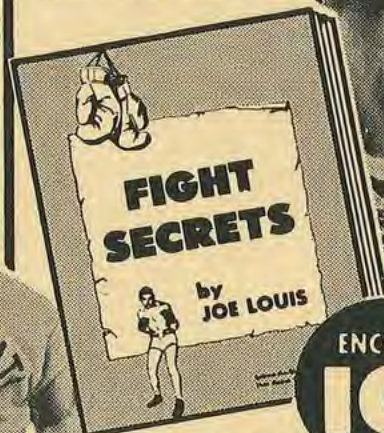


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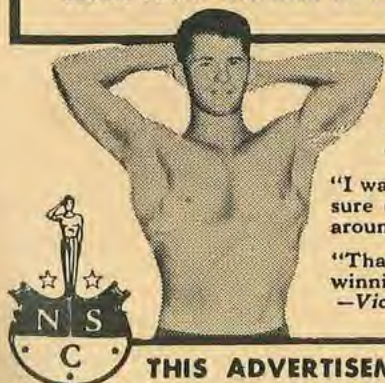
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